



PRESS RELEASE

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San Carlos Man Sentenced to 2 Consecutive Prison Terms totaling 16 years for Aggravated Assault of Girlfriend

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on July 24, 2002, Boyd Bylas, DOB: October 2, 1968, of San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation, Arizona, was sentenced to 16 years in prison, by United States District Judge Roger G. Strand, in Phoenix, Arizona.

Boyd Bylas had entered a plea of guilty on May 15, 2002 to two counts of Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1153 and 113(a)(3).

The defendant had engaged in a pattern of domestic violence against his girlfriend for a period of approximately 5 years, including threats to kill her. One of the assaults involved the defendant hitting the victim in the head with a 12-inch rock and refusing to allow her to seek medical attention for 7 hours. The victim suffered large intersecting gashes on the side of her forehead running from above her hairline to the corner of her left eye.

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Another assault involved the defendant attempting to strike the victim in the head with an axe. When the victim saw the axe, she tried to stop the blows by raising her arms and the axe struck the victim's arm and fractured her ulna.

The victim had repeatedly provided false statements to law enforcement about the cause of her injuries, alleging that the injuries were "accidental." The victim wrote a letter to the court asking that the defendant not receive a prison sentence.

The victim's family, however, was supportive of the prosecution as they had witnessed many of the victim's injuries throughout the years. The victim's sister testified at sentencing regarding the repeated nature of the assaults and the fact that the defendant would often target the same eye-area that was never allowed to heal.

The court imposed the statutory maximum sentence of 120 months (10 years) in one count and a consecutive 72 months (6 years) in the other (the axe incident).

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The prosecution was handled by the United States Attorney's Office, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-01-1113-PHX-RGS
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